DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 466 256 JC 020 459

AUTHOR Rasmussen, Patricia; Silverman, Barbara

TITLE Community Perception Survey, 2001.

INSTITUTION Mount San Antonio Coll., Walnut, CA.

PUB DATE 2001-05-17

NOTE 35p.

PUB TYPE Reports - Research (143) EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Accreditation (Institutions); College Role; Community

Colleges; *Educational Assessment; Educational Finance; Lifelong Learning; *Marketing; Partnerships in Education;

*School Community Relationship; Two Year Colleges

IDENTIFIERS *Mount San Antonio College CA

ABSTRACT

This document is a report on the 2001 Community Perception Survey administered by Mt. San Antonio College (SAC) (California). The survey gathered public perception data of SAC services and programs. The survey was mailed to 773 service area community leaders; 160 (21%) responded. Survey results showed that: (1) 70% had knowledge of SAC programs and services; (2) 52% rated SAC as good or excellent in providing information to the community; (3) 64% had visited, taken a class, or attended an event on campus; (4) 61% thought the college should improve technology training and provide more online classes; and (5) 77% expressed that they would likely or very likely support a bond measure to upgrade or renovate the college. Overall, 67% of the respondents expressed that SAC has an excellent reputation. The response rate is relatively small and includes only individuals on select college mailing lists. The perceptions and opinions of average citizens in the community was not collected or measured. The report indicates that the college must find ways to communicate, educate, and articulate its programs, services, and needs to the general public. The report includes tables that compare 2001 findings with previous SAC public opinion telephone survey results, along with 2000 statewide public opinion survey results. Appendix contains the survey instrument. (MKF)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Office of Educational Research and Improvement EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

May 17, 2001

Dr. Patricia Rasmussen Vice President Institutional Advancement Prepared by:

Director Ms. Barbara Silverman, MSc Research & Institutional Effectiveness

MI. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

Community Perception Survey - 2001

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CV

 $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{I}}$

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

13. A. Hall

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EPORT SUMMARY
ENEFITS OF THE PROJECT.
ATA COLLECTION.
ESULTS
OMMUNITY PERCEPTION HISTORY
ARRATIVE COMMENTS
IMITATIONS
OMMENTS
PPENDICES
A: Letter to Community Leaders & Community Perception Survey
B: Chart –Visited Campus
C: Chart –Community Position.



REPORT SUMMARY

Survey was mailed to 773 community leaders in April 2001 (see Appendix A). Of the surveys mailed, 160 surveys were returned or 21 percent As part of the Program Review process, and to meet Mt. San Antonio College's goals to make data driven decisions, a Community Perception The purpose of the survey was to collect perception data about Mt. SAC from community leaders.

SAC's collateral material to perceptions about public education. questions were taken from a Mt. SAC Public Perception Survey Questions on the survey ranged from public perception on Mt. Community College Survey conducted by Price Research and question related to a future bond measure was asked. Other based on telephone calls to 1,625 people. Additionally, one Three questions were replicated from the 2000 California conducted in July 2000.

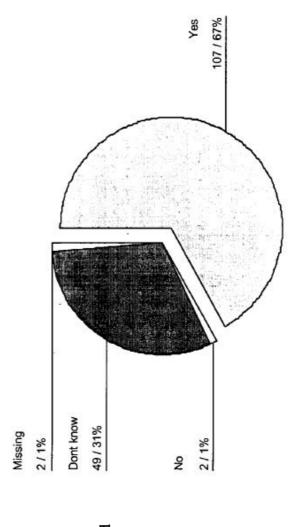
Results from the survey revealed:

- The quality and frequency of promotional materials received by those surveyed were rated very high.
- Some 70% had knowledge about Mt. SAC programs and
 - 57% rated good to excellent the College's efforts to inform the community of its needs.

- Many visited the campus during the past year to attend More than 50% of those responding or their family class, a cultural event, or special event.
 - members attended Mt. SAC.
 - Over 50% feel the College is under-funded.
- 67% think Mt. SAC has an excellent state and national 78% would support a third bond measure effort. 0
 - reputation (see pie chart^{NB})

Mt. SAC has an excellent state and

national reputation



ambiguous, this margin of error is not of great concern. Also, comparison of data from this study to that from other internal and external studies typically yielded similar The response rate was 21% (160 / 773), which translates into a margin of error of +/-8% with a 95% confidence interval. Considering the major findings were not

findings indicating that the current margin of error is not necessarily having a strong impact on our findings.

NB Results for all pie charts list the "number of respondents/ percentage of respondents (e.g., 107/67%). The "/" is used only to separate these two numbers.

~



BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

to their perception of Mt. San Antonio College. By asking questions The project allows us to "take the pulse" of the community, related perception. We can also use the results to measure the success of the collateral material we publish and to make any modifications from past surveys in key areas, we can monitor changes in necessary

plant key messages with the public related to our quality initiatives community. Reading and answering the survey also allows us to A direct mail piece, even unanswered, is a connection with the and our comprehensive mission. Questions related to external national and state surveys allow us to test local perceptions against other, larger, data sets. For example, people statewide and locally value a college education but feel families do not save enough to pay for their children to attend

DATA COLLECTION

leaders. The packet included a letter from President Feddersen, the survey, and a postage paid return envelope (see Appendix A). The questions and a section for additional narrative comments. Surveys were mailed back to the Research and Institutional Effectiveness improvement of college programs. The survey contained 40 information in March to the survey population of community The Institutional Advancement Office mailed a packet of letter indicated that the study was a way to seek quality Office for analysis.

Database

directors, executive directors and presidents of local chambers of The population included local businesses, legislators, community members, city council representatives, city managers, media representatives, representatives from Mt. SAC's Program Advisory Mt. SAC foundation directors, city economic or redevelopment commerce, high school liaisons with Mt. SAC, and local university members, assistant superintendents, high school counselors, donors, Committees, local superintendents of school districts and their board representatives.

Demographics

The following is a demographic profile of the respondents:

- Majority had lived in the community for five or more years
 - Almost 60% live within the Mt. SAC district
- 68% were White, 17% were Hispanic/Latino
- 24% held a school district administration position (Appendix C)

RESULTS

Overall, the survey revealed that the community views Mt. SAC in a positive light. Four questions related to what programs the College should focus on in the next 20 years were asked. These questions also were part of

O

Mt. SAC's 2000 Community Survey². The comparison results are as follows:

Should Mt. SAC focus on these in the next	2000^{2}	2001
20 years? (Only Strongly Agree responses)	(09=u)	(n=160)
Prepare students for proficiency with new	85%	%59
technology		
Find new ways to provide financial resources	25%	46%
needed to maintain state-of-the-art college		
facilities		
Provide new and updated buildings, state-of-	48%	36%
the-art equipment and new teaching methods		
Increase College's outreach to the	30%	43%
community in educational, cultural,		
recreational, and social programs		

The survey also included one question from a statewide survey conducted in 2000 by Price Research for the California Community Colleges³. In both the Price Survey and the current one, over 50% believe the College system is under-funded (see table)

Based on what you k	Based on what you know or what you have
heard compared to o	heard compared to other state educational
systems, would you	systems, would you say that the college
system is(1)	system is (1) under-funded, (2)
adequately funded	adequately funded, or (3) over-funded
California State	Mt. SAC
Survey ³	Community
	Perception 2001
54% say it is under-	58% say it is under-
funded	funded

² Office of Institutional Advancement (May, 2000). *The Results of a Community Survey*. Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, CA: Author.

³ Price Research (2000). California Community Colleges: 2000 Random Survey. The California Community College Chancellor's Office Systemwide Marketing

Marketing

Other results from the survey indicated the following:

- 92% thought the quality of Mt. SAC's publications were good to excellent
- 79% thought that the frequency in which they received materials from Mt. SAC was good to excellent
 - 62% thought the College's marketing efforts, when compared to other Colleges in the area, was good to excellent
- 52% thought the coverage of Mt. SAC activities in the local media was good to excellent
 - 38% thought the visibility of the staff at the community/civic functions in their town was good to excellent

Knowledge of Mt. SAC

Respondents indicated, by 67%, that Mt. SAC has an excellent state and national reputation (see pie chart on page 3).

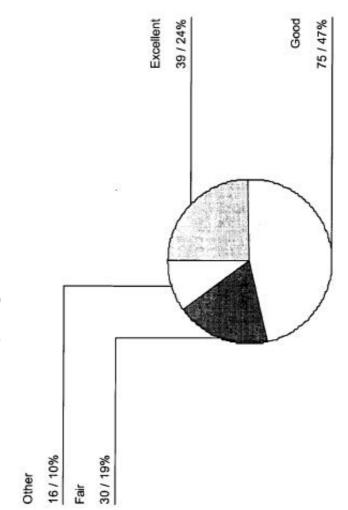
The following pie charts (see next two pages), indicate the level of knowledge they have of Mt. SAC with respect to its:

- Programs/services,
- Partnerships with business and industry and
- Partnerships with other educational providers.

Their level of knowledge was highest with program/services that Mt. SAC offers – representing a 71% good to excellent knowledge level. Their level of knowledge with regards to other partnerships was somewhat less – 42 to 47% indicated that their level of knowledge was good to excellent with respect to Mt. SAC's partnerships with business and industry as well as other educational providers.

Knowledge you have about Mt. SAC and

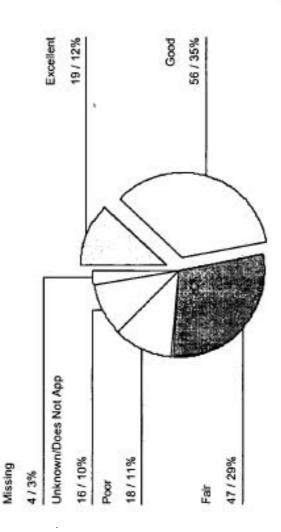
its programs/services.



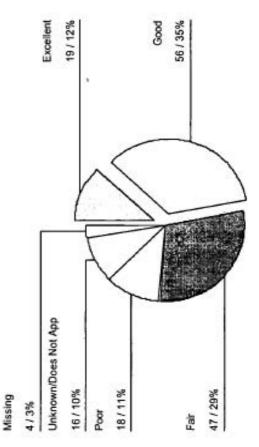


partnerships with business and industry Knowledge you have about Mt. SAC

ERIC Full fax t Provided by ERIC



partnerships with other educational providers Knowledge you have about Mt. SAC



^

Visiting Mt. SAC

Respondents indicated that they had visited Mt. SAC in a number of different ways and for different reasons:

- 39% indicated that they had visited the College's web site
- 64% had visited the campus in 1999-2000 to attend an event or class
- Of those who visited the campus for an event, 37% did so for a cultural outing (see Appendix B).

Perspectives on Education

Respondents were asked three questions related to their perspective on different aspects of education.

- We should not allow the price of a college education to keep students who are qualified and motivated to go to college from doing so. (79% strongly agree)
- A college education has become as important as a high school diploma used to be. (72% strongly agree)
- Most families today do a good job of saving for their children's college education. (78% strongly DISagree to DISagree)

The above same questions were asked in a national study by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (NCPPHE). The NCPPPHE results are comparable to findings from the present study (see table).

QUESTION	2000	2000 NCPPHE ⁴	2001 Survey
	NCPPHE4	California	(n=160)
	National	(n=503)	
	(n=1015)	,	
Price of	78%	73%	%6L
education			
(strongly agree)			
College	%89	63%	72%
important as high			
school (strongly			
agree)			
Saving for	%59	64%	%8 <i>L</i>
education			
(strongly			
DISagree to			
DISagree)			

Connection with the College

Some respondents had attended the College or had family members who had or would be attending the College:

- 58% said that themselves or their family members had attended the college and
 - Within the next five years:
- Respondents indicated that themselves or members of their family would attend Mt. SAC for:
- Credit courses (30%)
- Lifelong learning (non-credit) courses (30%)
 - o 52% indicated that either themselves or a family member would attend Mt. SAC for cultural arts events/activities

⁴ National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (2000). *Great Expectations: How Californians View Higher Education*. San Jose, California: Author.

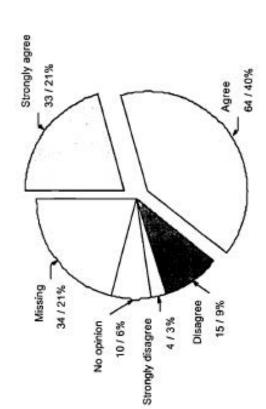
ERIC Provided by ERIC

Thinking in the Future

Over the next 20 years, 61% of the respondents thought that it is important for Mt. SAC to provide more on-line classes (see pie

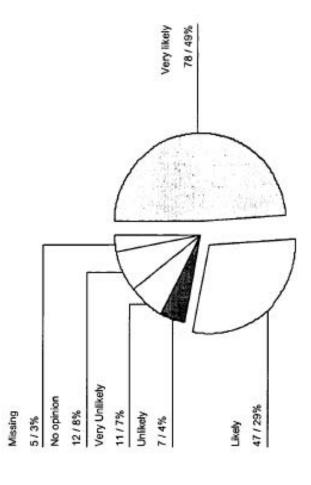
Important: Providing more

on-line classes



renovate, upgrade and provide new classrooms and learning support space?" years, how likely would you be to support a local bond measure to Respondents were asked one question related to a bond measure. Mt. SAC. Over 77% indicated that it was very likely or likely that they would support a bond measure (see pie chart). The specific wording of the question was, "Given that Mt. SAC needs to accommodate an additional 7,000 credit students in the next 10 They were asked if they would support a bond measure for

Would you support a bond measure for Mt. SAC?



COMMUNITY PERCEPTION HISTORY

Two Mt. SAC Public Perception Surveys were completed in 2000, one was a telemarketing survey of 297 high propensity voters conducted in February and March of 2000⁶, and the other was a paper survey to 250 area residents conducted in April-May of 2000². In 1997, a telephone survey was conducted by John Fairbank to assess voter support for Mt. SAC's bond effort. Some of the questions from these surveys were used in the current study. The comparisons are as follows:

QUESTION	2661	2000	2001
	Voter Survey	Survey	Survey
	(u=600)	(n = 297)	(n = 160)
	Telemarketing	Telemarketing	Mailed Survev
Would support	%69	72%	78%
another bond			
measure			
Facilities need	30%	48%	+ (see footnote
upgrading			on next page)
No public or	+ (see footnote on	%99	
community	next page)		
relations issues			
apparent			
Provides an	+	<i>L</i> 9	93%*
affordable			
education ⁸			

⁵ Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates (1997). Mt. San Antonio College voter opinion telephone survey. Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, CA.
⁶ Office of Institutional Advancement (March 2000). A Report on a

Telemarketing Pilot Study. Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, CA.

Wording was different in 2001: Do you think that there are any major public relations or community relation issues facing the College at this time?

QUESTION	1997	7000	2001
	Voter Survey ⁵	Survey ⁶	Survey
	(009 = 0)	(n = 297)	(n = 160)
	Telemarketing	Telemarketing	Mailed
			Survey
Is a good place	+	71	* %96
to get an			
education ⁸			
Has	+	16%	*%95
outstanding			
athletic			
programs ⁸			
Has excellent	+	41%	64%*
teachers ⁸			
Focus on	+	34%	84%*
quality ⁸			
Has the right	+	%89	73% <u>*</u> 9
programs to			
serve the			
community			

⁺Questions related to these topics were asked in a different manner or not asked. Therefore, a comparison is not possible.

⁹ Wording in 2001 was different, "Mt. SAC is responsive to community needs."

ERIC

⁸ Note: In 2001, each question was posed separately, while in 2000, respondents were asked to choose from only three of these statements.

* Note: Majority of remaining responses were "Don't know".

NARRATIVE COMMENTS

public relations or community issues facing the College at this time? Respondents were also asked: "Do you think there are any major If yes, please elaborate." Some 41 people listed a response. The four themes, which emerged from the comments, fell into these

- 1. Convince people as to why you need support for a bond. (19 responses)
- The communities farthest from the College don't know Mt. SAC. (5 responses)
- The College should partner with other educational entities. (5
- The college should address diversity issues. (4 responses) 4.

Respondents were also provided an opportunity to make comments Some of the most or recommendations for improving programs and services at Mt. Some 20 people made comments. interesting included:

- "Website needs to be updated."
- "Absolutely more classrooms. Classes fill quickly leaving many without options."
- "I value the education I got there and I always recommend the college to anyone."
 - "Some first time students have trouble getting CSU, UC requirement classes."
- "I hope Mt. SAC will prove to the rest of the community colleges that they are the flagship regarding recycling, reusing, and source reduction."
- "Mt. SAC is one of the best community colleges in the state with a whole variety of offerings.
- "Employees at my workplace need interactive online

JIMITIATIIONS

As with every study, some limitations exist. We acknowledge that:

- have subject matter expertise on what we do for students The survey was sent to groups on our mailing list. These material. They have more knowledge about the College than the average citizen. Some of the Program Advisory Committee members who were part of the pool would people receive the Campus Connection and Update n various programs.
 - feelings respond to a survey. We have no data on the Generally, people with strong positive or negative 613 people who chose not to respond. 0
- The sample is small, but statistically valid.
- There was only one question related to the bond measure and it did not take into account California's current economic situation. 0 0
 - Almost 60% of the respondents live within the District.
- The sample included decision makers and leaders of the community. Few "average citizens" were part of the 0

COMMENTS

Overall, leaders and decision makers in the College district view Mt. San Antonio College in a positive light. It is apparent that there is positive support in the community for another bond attempt because our facilities needs have been articulated to the leaders and decision makers.

Capstone questions, much like the bond question, tend to mask a focus response. For example, the Fairbanks' study asked the bond questions in at least three different ways both before and after educating the respondent on our needs. It is unknown whether respondents would have answered in the same way if other elements

were included in the survey, such as the energy crisis, high oil prices, and the general California economic situation.

The critical question will be how to educate the average voter that our facility needs are real.

This report will be shared with the Institutional Marketing Committee to address any issues that might be helpful for marketing the college. The study will be posted on the web site of the Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness. Please visit http://www.mtsac.edu/college/institutional/research



APPENDICES



Appendix A: Cover Letter and Community Perception Survey

March 2001

Dear Friend of Mt. SAC:

Mt. San Antonio College continuously seeks to improve the quality of its programs and services for the people of the Walnut, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. As a community leader, your views about the College are critically important as we seek to improve what we do. **That is why I am asking you to complete the enclosed Community Perception Survey concerning Mt. San Antonio College**. In addition to providing us valuable feedback on the way we communicate with the public, we are interested in knowing your perception of higher education.

The survey will take no more than five minutes of your time. A postage paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience. I hope you will complete and return the survey to us by April 12, 2001 so that we may include your perceptions of how we serve your community in our final report.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to check out our new and expanded web site at www.mtsac.edu for information on our programs, services, cultural arts series, and other activities. I would also like to invite you to visit Mt. San Antonio College at any time. Tours of the campus or particular programs may be arranged by calling Jamaika Fowler at (909) 594-5611 ext. 5682.

Thank you for your assistance and continuing support. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bill Feddersen, Ed.D. President

Encs.



Mt. San Antonio College Community Perception Survey

INSTRUCTIONS

In an effort to build a strong relationship with the communities Mt. SAC serves, improve the services we provide, and to gather important information for program review and planning, Mt. SAC asks for your assistance in completing this survey. Your responses are **IMPORTANT**and will be kept **CONFIDENTIAL** If you have any questions about this survey, please contact the Institutional Advancement Office at (909) 594-5611, x4259. Please return the survey by April 12, 2001. Thank you for your assistance.

The survey can be completed in *DARK* PEN or PENCIL. Please mark the circles fully as shown:

NOT Like

these

Like

This

PERSONAL INFORMATION	NC
What is the zip code where you live?	ader a v v v kan e verska skille kilde fild gester e ekan elektronis i kilde fild
Section and the second section is a second section of the second section section in the second section	
How long have you lived in the comm	nunity?
0 – 1 years	
2 – 3 years	
4 – 5 years	
More than 5 years	
Please indicate your community posit (Mark ALL that apply.)	ion:
City official (elected or employed)	
Chamber member	
Mt. SAC Foundation Director	
Local business owner/CEO	
Mt. SAC Advisory Committee member	
School District Administration	
Board Member	

"new" categories as define	d by th	e U.S	. gov	ernme	nt.)
American Indian or Alaska	Nativ	е			
Asian					
Black or African American	1				
Spanish, Hispanic or Latin	าด				
Native Hawaiian or other F	Pacific]
White].
Other					
SURVEY () IES	TIOI	VIS.		
			V()		oes
Please rate the following aspects of	ŧ				Inknown or Does Iot Apply
the College's communications.	Excellent	Good	<u>.</u>	ō	nown Apply
	Ж	တိ	Fair	Poor	Unk Not
Quality of Mt. SAC's publications (schedules,					
catalogs, brochures, newsletters).					
Frequency of the					
materials you receive from the College.					
Coverage of Mt. SAC activities in the local	П	П	П	П	П
media. Visibility of College staff					
at community/civic functions in your town.					
Knowledge you have		_	_		_
about Mt. SAC and its programs/services.			Ш	Ш	
Knowledge you have about Mt. SAC					
partnerships with business and industry.					

What is your race/ethnicity? (Note that these are



Media

Legislator

Other (please state)_

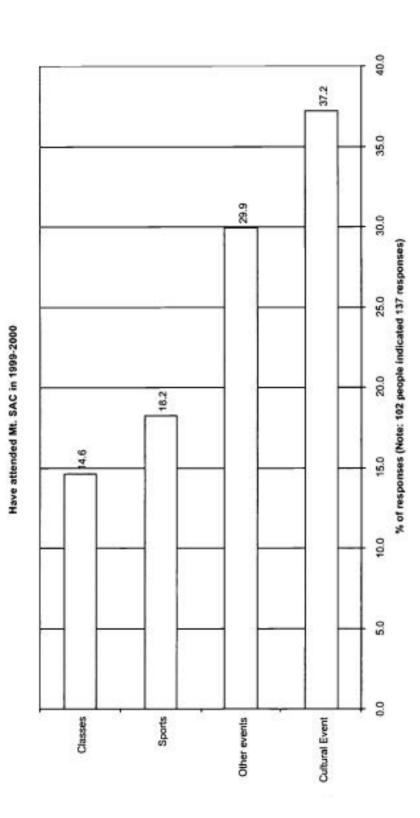
Please rate the following aspects of the College's communications.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown or Doe Not Apply	Please respond to the following statements regarding your attitudes toward higher education. We should not allow the	n. 3	agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Knowledge you have about Mt. SAC partnerships with other educational providers.					5 ž	price of a college education to keep student who are qualified and motivated to go to college from doing so.	s [
College's efforts to inform the community of its needs.						A college education has become as important as a high school diploma used					
College's marketing efforts compared to other colleges in the area.	all vo sa bagga are				apparent and the second of	to be. Most families today do a good job of saving for their children's college					
Please answer the follogeneral questions.		ana et 200 des eterretes	Yes	2	Unable	education. Based on either what you have heard, compared to systems, would you say community college systems.	o oth that	er st Calif	ate ec	lucati	
Have you ever visited Mt. Swebsite-www.mtsac.edu?	SAC's					Under-funded					
Did you visit the campus in 2000 to attend an event or						Adequately funded					
If YES to the above question the event(s) one (or more) of following:		as		-		Over-funded					
Cu	ıltural	Arts				What programs or projects do you feel	a) jree	
•	Sp	orts				will be the most important for Mt. SAC to consider over the	agre			Disaç	٩
Other (pleas		lass cify)				next 20 years?	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
Have you or any member of attended Mt. SAC classes		fami	y eve			Preparing students for proficiency with new technology.					
Yes						Increasing the College's outreach to the community in educational, and workforce training programs.					
						Providing new and updated buildings with state-of-the-art equipment.					
						Providing more on-line classes.					



What programs or projects do you feel will be the most important for Mt. SAC to consider over the next 20 years?	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree No opinion	If you Marked "yes" to the previous question, please elaborate.
Finding new ways to provide the financial resources needed to maintain state-of-the-art college facilities				Please answer the following general questions. No object to the property of t
Based on what you know or have heard, would you say that	Yes	No	Don't Know	Given that Mt. SAC
Mt. SAC is a good place to get an education.				needs to accommodate an additional 7,000
Mt. SAC provides affordable				credit students in the next 10 years, how likely
education Mt. SAC has outstanding				would you be to support
athletic programs.				renovate, upgrade and provide new classrooms
Mt. SAC focuses on quality.				and learning support space?
Mt. SAC has excellent teachers.				
Mt. SAC is responsive to community needs.				If you knew that Mt. SAC offers interactive courses via on-line
Mt. SAC has an excellent state and national reputation.				computers via the IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
Within the next five years, do and/or members of your fam SAC for				a class? Include any <u>additional comments o</u> <u>recommendations</u> for improving the programs o
Lifelong learning (non-credit) co	urses			services offered by the College or for building stronge community relationships by the College, (if you need
Credit courses				more space, please use a separate sheet of paper):
Cultural Arts Events/Activities				
None of the above				
Do you think that there are a relations or community relations the College at this time?				Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the survey in the envelope provided by
Yes				April 12, 2001. Thank you for your time and assistance
No				



Appendix B: Respondents visited the campus in 1999-2000 to attend an event or class.

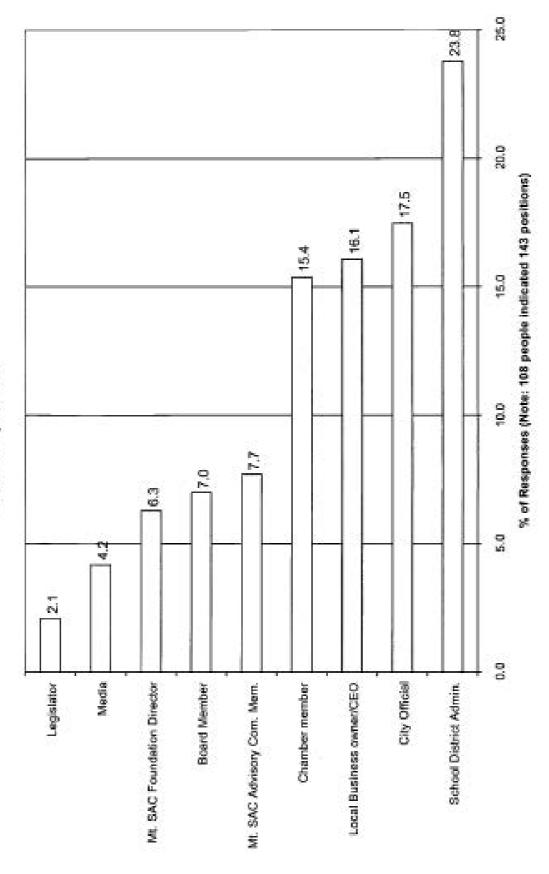




35

Appendix C: Survey Demographic: Community positions held by respondents

Community Position







U.S. Department of Education



Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)

National Library of Education (NLE)

Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

NOTICE

Reproduction Basis

√	This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.
	This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").

EFF-089 (5/2002)

